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24 October 1960

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INTERNATIONAL ENCOURAGEMENT OF SCIENTIFIC
RESEARCH IN THE FIELD OF CANCER CONTROL

- USSR -

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Price: \$0.50

U. S. JOINT PUBLICATIONS RESEARCH SERVICE
205 EAST 42nd STREET, SUITE 300
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

JPRS: 4121

CSO:1074-S/a

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RESEARCH IN THE FIELD OF CANCER CONTROL

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(Following is the translation of an unsigned article entitled "Mezhdunarodnoye pooshchreniye nauchnykh issledovaniy v oblasti bor'by s zabolevaniyami rakom" (English version above), in Klinicheskaya Meditsina (Clinical Medicine), Vol XXXVIII, No 5, Moscow, 1960, pages 3-5).

Note: At the Fourteenth Session of the UN General Assembly, the chief of the delegation of the Belorussian SSR, Comrade K. V. Kiselev, on behalf of the government of the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, introduced a proposal to include in the agenda of the Fourteenth Session of the UN General Assembly the question of "The International Encouragement of Scientific Research in the Field of Cancer Control." The appeal and resolution of the General Assembly are printed below.

The delegation of the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic introduces for the consideration of the Fourteenth Session of the UN General Assembly the question of "The International Encouragement of Scientific Research in the Field of Cancer Control."

The posing of this question is prompted by the following motives.

Mankind is becoming more and more alarmed by the wide spread of cancer. It is known that there are many unclear and controversial questions in the problem of cancer diseases. People in all countries regard cancer as fatal, inasmuch as the causes of this disease have not been ascertained and no effective cure for it has been found.

Statistical data on cancer incidence and mortality show that the number of patients who die annually on our planet amounts to more than two million. This means that more than 100 persons out of every 100,000 die of cancer each year. If we assume that the average life span of persons with malignant tumors varies between two and three years, it will be found that about five million persons suffering from cancer are now living on the globe.

According to official data, cancer mortality in most countries holds second or third place among the other causes of mortality. The available statistics on cancer throughout the world attest that control of this disease is an international problem, in the solution of which the United Nations could play a positive role.

The great amount of scientific-research work which has been done during many years in various countries of the world has already brought some progress in the field of cancer control.

At the same time, it should be noted that the national and international efforts thus far made in this direction have not yielded effective results. It is necessary to do still more work to find effective remedies for cancer. Of immense significance in ascertaining the causes of the various forms of cancer in man is the study of the characteristics of this disease in various countries, and the dependence of the frequency of this or that type of cancer tumor upon the geographic, climatic, occupational and other factors.

There is no doubt that the problem of cancer control is one of the most important problems of world medical science. The eradication of cancer as a widespread fatal disease of man is one of the most important tasks of all humanity. The solution of this task should be promoted by the United Nations. Article 13 of the UN Charter imposes upon the General Assembly the direct obligation to organize research and make recommendations for the purpose of assisting international collaboration in the field of public health. In this connection, the General Assembly could adopt in this question a resolution in favor of international encouragement of scientific research in the field of cancer control.

A most important measure of encouragement would be the awarding by the United Nations of international prizes for the most outstanding scientific work in the field of cancer control. The UN budget would not be affected by the establishment of three prizes totaling 100,000 dollars to be awarded to scholars every four years.

At the request of the UN General Assembly, the International Anti-Cancer Scientific Union could undertake to award these prizes and make the first presentation of them at the regular World-wide Scientific Congress for Cancer Control in 1962.

It seems advisable to acquaint the world public with progress in the field of cancer control.

In consideration of this, it would be useful if the International Anti-Cancer Scientific Union informed the UN General Assembly in 1962 of the progress attained in cancer control.

In conjunction with the foregoing, the delegation of the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, guided solely by humanistic objectives, introduces the following draft resolution for the consideration of the Fourteenth Session of the General Assembly.

Fourteenth Session

Point 71

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
(In accordance with the report of the Third Committee [A/4279])
1389 (XIV). International Encouragement of Scientific Research in
the Field of Cancer Control.

The General Assembly,

Taking into consideration that cancer belongs at present to
the diseases most dangerous to mankind,

Recognizing the general desire of all humanity to liquidate
widespread cancerous diseases,

Noting with satisfaction the useful work of the World Health
Organization and of the International Anti-Cancer Union of national
organizations for cancer control,

Recognizing at the same time that the efforts to control this
disease made hitherto on a national or international scale not
yielded sufficiently effective results,

Desiring to encourage further scientific work in this field
in all countries and international institutions,

Resolves to establish appropriate prizes, to be called
"United Nations Organization Prizes," in the total amount of 100,000
dollars, which shall be awarded for the most outstanding scientific-
research work in determining the causes of cancerous diseases and
in controlling them, and proposes to the Secretary General that the
awarding of these prizes be organized in the course of the next
four years at the recommendation of the World Health Organization
and that the awards be renewed periodically as long as this is
considered necessary;

Requests the World Health Organization to examine in accordance
with article IV of the Agreement between the United Nations
Organization and the World Health Organization the question of what
further steps may be taken to encourage the efforts in the field of
cancer control;

Also requests the World Health Organization to enlist the
full support and scientific consultation of the International Anti-
Cancer Union for this purpose;

Requests the World Health Organization to inform the General
Assembly of the United Nations as early as possible of the progress
attained in cancer control.

841st plenary session

20 November, 1959.

FOR REASONS OF SPEED AND ECONOMY
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